Tourist centres around Ganga river

†421. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up tourist centers at the places where the Ganga, the Jamuna and the Saraswati rivers pass through;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared any plan to conduct a study on these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Depletion of ground water level

422. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level in various districts of the country has gone down thereby making the situation alarming;

(b) if so, the city-wise/State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Decline in ground water levels has been observed in various parts of the country in consultation the State Governments. As per the latest assessments of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas), 839 units are 'over-exploited' (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100% with significant decline in long term trend of ground water level in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both), 226 units are 'critical' (where ground water exploitation is between 90% and 100% with significant decline in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods). The State-wise details of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units are given in the Statedment (*See* below)

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable action for arresting the declining ground water level in their respective States. However, based on the survey reports, some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for improvement of ground water level in the country are:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) Constitution of 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' with the objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among various stakeholders.

(ii) Preparation of 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water.

(iii) Circulation of Manual/Guide on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various States under the Central Sector scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground water' in Ninth Plan.

(v) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" during 2006-08 under Central Sector Scheme of 'Ground water management and regulation' in identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(vi) During the XI Plan, CGWB has planned to take up 75 artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting studies.

(vii) Central Ground Water Authority, constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (protection) Act of 1986, has notified 43 Over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management and also notified 65 over-exploited areas in various States, for registration of ground water abstraction structures.

(viii) The Central Ground Water Authority has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

Statement

Categorization of blocks/mandals/talukas in India (Assessment – 2004)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Total No. of Assessed Units	Over-exploited		Critical		Semi-critical	
			Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1231	219	18	77	6	175	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	515	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	146	0	0	0	0	0	5
6.	Delhi	9	7	78	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	223	31	14	12	5	69	31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Haryana	113	55	49	11	10	5	4
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	208	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	175	65	37	3	2	14	8
14.	Kerala	151	5	3	15	10	30	20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	312	24	8	5	2	19	6
16.	Maharashtra	318	7	2	1	0	23	7
17.	Manipur	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Orissa	314	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	137	103	75	5	4	4	3
23.	Rajasthan	237	140	59	50	21	14	6
24.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	385	142	37	33	9	57	15
26.	Tripura	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	803	37	5	13	2	88	11
28.	Uttaranchal	17	2	12	0	0	3	18
29.	West Bengal	269	0	0	1	0	37	14
	TOTAL STATES	5705	837	15	226	4	546	10
	Union Territories							
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Daman & Diu	2	1	50	0	0	1	50
5.	Lakshadweep	9	0	0	0	0	3	33
6.	Pondicherry	4	1	25	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UTS	18	2	11	0	0	4	22
	GRAND TOTAL	5723	839	15	226	4	550	10

Criteria for categorization:

Over-Exploited blocks:

Stage of Groundwater development - > 100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period or both

Critical blocks:

Stage of Ground Water Development - >90% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period

Semi-Critical blocks:

Stage of Ground Water Development - > 70% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period